(b) if so, whether Ministry has prepared a concrete comprehensive strategy which will cover all 210 districts in five States;

(c) if so, what are main strategies prepared by Ministry in this regard;

(d) by what time this strategies will be implemented; and

(e) what steps are being taken to check population control in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The National Common Minimum Programme states the intention of the Government to focus on high fertility States through strengthening comprehensive primary health care. Accordingly, the Ministry has conceptualized the strategy for the Rural Health Mission which is proposed to cover the entire country, with special focus on 17 States, including the high fertility States, for comprehensive integrated primary health care sevices. If approved, the mission shall be launched in early 2005.

(e) The Government is imlementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme for achieving population stabilization, by addressing the issues of contraception, maternal and child health simultaneously. The stress is on sustained behavioural change communication and improved access to quality family planning services, especially in the high fertility States.

Names of substandard medicines

930. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of medicines manufactured by some pharmaceutical companies were found to be substandard; and

(b) if so, what are the names of substandard medicines and what action is being taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Drugs and Consmetics Act, 1940, and Rules thereunder, the State Governments are empowered to regulate and monitor the quality of

drugs moving in the market. Action against any complaints for possible manufacture or sale of sub-standard drugs is taken by State Governments through their respective drugs control organizations. Samples of medicines are taken randomly by the Drugs Control Officers from the manufacturing and sales outlets to validate their quality in their drugs testing laboratories. The details of the names of the medicines of the pharmaceutical companies togetherwith results of analysis and punitive action thereof are maintained by the Drugs Controllers of States/UTs. Such details are, therefore, not maintained Centrally. However, as per the feedback, available from the Drugs Controller of States/UTs 38,824,36,314 and 40,682 samples were tested during the period 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, out of which 3,458, 3,395 and 3,499 samples were declared to be not of standard quality which is 8.9%, 9.34% and 8.60% respectively of the samples tested.

Indian patients used as Guinea Pigs for Clinical Trails

931. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian Patients are being used as Guinea Pigs in Clinical Trials by some Bio-Tech Companies; and

(b) if so, the names of companies involved and action taken by DCGI against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No specific instances about Indian patients used as guinea pigs in clinical trials by some bio-tech Companies has come to the knowledge of this Ministry.

All clinical trials including those of bio-tech products are required to be conducted as per norms prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules framed thereunder and the Good Clinical Practices (GCP) Guidelines. Approval for clinical trials are also to be obtained from Ethical Committee of respective medical Institutions.

There was, however a news-item appearing in the Economic Times Dated 26th September, 2004, under the captain 'Guinea Pigs'. The report is however not based on facts. The trials mentioned in the news report had been conducted as per norms and evaluated by experts.